Express Mail No. EV383355943US
Date of Deposit: June 15, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.(currently amended) A thread wear gauge for gauging when a straight coil thread having a nominal new thread profile has been worn beyond safe limits, said nominal new thread profile providing said straight coil thread with a shear load bearing area, said thread wear gauge comprising:

a gauging thread, said gauging thread being adapted to threadably engage said straight coil thread wherein at least enough of said shear load bearing area has worn away to render said straight coil thread unsafe for continued use, said gauging thread adapted to being unable to threadably engage with said straight coil thread when said straight coil thread is safe for continued use.

2.(currently amended) A thread wear gauge of claim 1 wherein said straight coil thread is an internal thread.

3.(currently amended) A thread wear gauge of claim 1 wherein said straight coil thread is an external thread.

4.(currently amended) A thread wear gauge of claim 1 wherein said straight coil thread is internal and said nominal new thread profile is convex.

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5.(currently amended) A thread wear gauge of claim 1 wherein said straight coil thread is internal and said nominal new thread profile is concave.

6.(currently amended) A thread wear gauge of claim 1 wherein said gauging thread being adapted to threadably engage said straight coil thread wherein at least approximately 30 percent of said shear load bearing area has been worn away to render said straight coil thread unsafe for continued use.

7.(currently amended) A thread wear gauge of claim 1 wherein said gauging thread being adapted to threadably engage said straight coil thread wherein at least approximately 50 percent of said shear load bearing area has been worn away to render said straight coil thread unsafe for continued use.

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8.(currently amended) A method for gauging when a straight coil thread having a nominal new thread profile has been worn beyond safe limits using a thread wear gauge, said nominal new thread profile providing said straight coil thread with a load bearing area, said method comprising:

selecting a thread wear gauge having a gauging thread, said gauging thread being adapted to threadably engage said straight coil thread wherein at least approximately half of said ~~normally~~ load bearing area has worn away, and said gauging thread adapted to being unable to threadably engage with said straight coil thread when less than approximately half of said load bearing area has been worn away;

attempting to threadably engage said gauging thread with said straight coil thread;

observing whether said gauging thread can be threadably engaged with said straight coil thread; and

discontinuing the use of said straight coil thread if said gauging thread can be threadably engaged with said straight coil thread.

9.(currently amended) A thread wear gauge for gauging when a straight coil thread having a nominal new thread profile has been worn beyond safe limits, said nominal new thread profile providing said straight coil thread with a shear load bearing area, said thread wear gauge comprising:

a gauging thread, said gauging thread being adapted to threadably engage said straight coil thread wherein at least approximately ~~half~~ thirty percent of said shear load bearing area has worn away, said gauging thread adapted to being unable to threadably engage with said straight coil thread when less than approximately ~~half~~ thirty percent of said shear load bearing area has been worn away.

10. (new) A thread wear gauge of claim 9 wherein said gauging thread being adapted to being unable to threadably engage with said straight coil thread when less than approximately fifty percent of said shear load bearing area has been worn away.

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11.(new) A method for gauging when a straight coil thread having a nominal new thread profile has been worn beyond safe limits using a thread wear gauge, said nominal new thread profile providing said straight coil thread with a shear load bearing area, said method comprising:

selecting a thread wear gauge having a gauging thread, said gauging thread being adapted to threadably engage said straight coil thread wherein at least approximately thirty percent of said shear load bearing area has worn away, and said gauging thread adapted to being unable to threadably engage with said straight coil thread when less than approximately thirty percent of said shear load bearing area has been worn away;

attempting to threadably engage said gauging thread with said straight coil thread;

observing whether said gauging thread can be threadably engaged with said straight coil thread; and

discontinuing the use of said straight coil thread if said gauging thread can be threadably engaged with said straight coil thread.